

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Bent on August 27, 2008.

In claim 1, line 4 "sludge or slurry" has been deleted and -- material -- has been substituted therefor.

In claim 6, line 2, "sludge or slurry" has been deleted and -- material -- has been substituted therefor. the group consisting of

In claim 9, line 2, "preferably" has been deleted.

In claims 10 and 14, line 1 of each, after "from" the phrase -- the group consisting of -- been inserted.

In claim 12, line 1, after "hydrotalcite" the word -- contains -- has been inserted.

In claims 13, 16 and 17, line 2 of each, after "from" the phrase -- the group consisting of -- been inserted.

In claim 17, last line, "or" has been changed to -- and --.

In claim 22, line 1, "may" has been deleted and -- is -- has been substituted therefor. In line 2, "be" has been deleted.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: WO 01/55057 and WO 99/17879 both disclose the use of hydrotalcites as fertilizers or soil

conditioners. However there is no teaching, disclosure or suggestion in either of these references to treat a waste material containing manure with hydrotalcites, as required by applicant's claims. Nor would there be any motivation from the prior art to do so. Although McConchie et al (US 7,077,963) and Jin et al (US 2006/0070952) both disclose the use of hydrotalcites to treat wastewater, this would not provide motivation to treat a waste material containing manure with the hydrotalcites. Moreover, applicant's claims require the step of "subjecting the mixture to a granulating process and a drying process to form dried granules", which step is not taught, disclosed or suggested in the prior art in the context of treating a waste material containing manure with a layered double hydroxide material.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wayne Langel whose telephone number is 571-272-1353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8 am - 3:30 pm Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wayne Langel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793